challenged people and sale thereof during the last three years, company-wise, and the facilities being provided for purchase and utilization thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): As per information received from the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), during the years 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04, M/s Maruti Udyog Limited has manufactured 78, 80 and 58 number of Zen AX model cars for use by the physically challenged people. The Government allows Central Excise Duty concession for purchase of such vehicles.

Professionalisation of Public Sector Undertakings

2026. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is Government's policy to professionalise the management of the Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the criterion for doing so;

(c) the number of the PSUs which have been professionalised, so far;

(d) what is the time lag normally taken by Government to appoint Board of Directors and whether it is a fact that it takes a few years in certain cases;

(e) while proposing or implementing professionalisation of PSUs, whether it envisage and percolate down the line; and

(f) how it reflects comparing the performance before professionalisation and thereafter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. The policy of the Government is that the Board of Directors should have a proper mix of full time functional Directors, part-time Government Directors and part-time non-official Directors. Appointments of Directors are made by the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments after completing the requisite formalities like, selection through PESB or Search Committee, vigilance clearance from CVC, approval of competent authority, etc. This is a continuous process. The Directors of different categories bring expertise to the functioning of the Board, which would help in improving the performance of the PSE concerned.